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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Republic of Djibouti lies halfway between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer. Its location, on the east coast of Africa, where the Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden, between Suez and the Far East, gives it its strategic importance. Djibouti has boundaries on both land and sea: to the north, west and south it is bounded by Ethiopia (450 km) and to the south-east by Somalia (65 km). To the east it has 370 km of coastline. Its total area is 23,200 square kilometres.

2. Djibouti's climate is semi-desert and very harsh. Nearly 90 per cent of the country is covered by desert and extremely arid land. Volcanic mountains in the north give way to desert plains and lakes Assal and Abbé in the centre. The major mountain chain that runs along the Gulf of Tadjourah includes Mt. Goda (1,750 metres), the Day forest and the Mablas chain (1,380 metres), which are the only parts of the country with permanent plant cover. In the south, a series of parallel depressions separated by plateaux give rise to plains that suit the population's nomadic lifestyle. The largest of these is the plain of Hanlé, which is 35 km long and 20 km wide.

3. The country's varied geology thus defines its human geography, since it determines the distribution of aquifers and pasture land as well as the quality of the access routes between the different population centres of the country.

4. The country suffers from a notable lack of resources, its sole resources being fisheries, which are estimated at between 1,100 and 10,000 tons, and

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

geothermal resources; the latter, though significant, have not yet been tapped. Finally, the country's ecosystem is threatened by increasing desertification, soil erosion and groundwater depletion.

5. In 1991 Djibouti's population was estimated at 480,000, with a population density of 20.7 inhabitants per square kilometre. Women account for 50.6 per cent of the total population and men for the remaining 49.4 per cent.

6. The population of Djibouti consists of two main ethnic groups of nomadic origin: the Issas (mainly Somali in origin) together with the Issacs and the Gadabourais, and the Afars (mainly from eastern Ethiopia). The largest minority group is of Yemeni origin; it accounts for approximately 5 per cent of the population and engages for the most part in retail trade and maritime transportation activities.

7. Djibouti also has a large, mainly French, expatriate community comprised of French military and technical assistance personnel and their families (approximately 10,000), as well as various other merchants.

8. The population is mostly urban (81 per cent) and is concentrated in the capital. This high urban concentration has led to many economic and social problems, such as rising unemployment, public health problems, etc. More than 80 per cent of the rural population (19 per cent of total population) are nomads. The annual natural rate of population growth is 3.1 per cent; migration from neighbouring countries, mainly Ethiopia and Somalia, raises the rate by a further 1.5 per cent bringing the overall rate of population increase to 4.6 per cent per annum. In real terms therefore, the economy's growth rate (GDP) averaged only 1 per cent between 1988 and 1991, a rate lower than the natural rate of population increase (3.1 per cent). Nearly 45 per cent of the population is less than 15 years old, the median age being 18.5 years, while those aged over 60 years account for a mere 2 per cent. The average household comprises 7.2 persons.

9. While it is difficult to know exactly how many people are economically active, the working population can be divided into three main categories of unequal size: the modern sector of the economy (most public servants), which employs 23,300; the informal sector, employing approximately 148,943; and the rural employed, who number 45,236, making a total of 217,479 in 1989. 1/

10. Little is known about the composition of the informal sector, although most of those employed in this sector live in urban areas and account for nearly 75 per cent of the country's unskilled labour force. Studies of this sector show that the vast majority of those employed earn less than 50,000 Djibouti francs per month. In the rural areas, the employed are mainly farmers whose production is largely for subsistence.

11. The official languages are Arabic and French. Other languages spoken include Afar and Somali. Almost the entire population is Muslim.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REVIEW

12. Its per capita gross domestic product is estimated at US$ 600, placing Djibouti in the category of least developed countries according to the United Nations classification.

13. According to the 1991 Human Development Report of UNDP, the country ranks 153rd among the 160 least developed countries. Its human development index is a low 0.084, which is due, inter alia, to a very low life expectancy at birth (48 years) and to one of the lowest literacy rates in the world (approximately 19 per cent).

14. As regards international relations, the Republic of Djibouti is a member of, inter alia, the United Nations (1 February 1978), Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), the EEC/ACP (Africa-Caribbean-Pacific) Convention, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77.

15. Djibouti is also a member of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Lomé Convention. Its currency is the Djibouti franc (DF), which is pegged to the United States dollar at a parity that has been fixed since 1949. Since 1973, however, the United States dollar has been worth 177.7 DF. The currency is convertible upon demand into dollars without any restrictions, for both residents and non-residents.

A. Main products

16. Djibouti has the potential to play a key strategic role at the subregional, regional and international levels. Its long-term development must be planned with this in mind, since the country has the attributes to become a major hub between Africa and the Middle East, an international financial centre, a way station for products exported by neighbouring countries, and a redistribution centre for imports into the Preferential Trade Area.

17. The structure of Djibouti's economy can best be examined by looking at the contribution of each sector to the country's gross domestic product. The primary sector, which includes agriculture, small-scale fishing and cattle raising, accounts for only 4 per cent of the gross domestic product. The area under cultivation is less than 600 hectares and employs less than 1,000 persons who produce approximately 2,000 tons of agricultural produce. Cattle raising is a major activity, providing employment for 100,000 persons. However, it is not pursued on a commercial basis, since cattle farmers regard their cattle as capital rather than as a source of income. Water resources are scarce and this poses a considerable obstacle to agricultural development. For these reasons, Djibouti imports almost all of its basic consumer goods. Finally, although the country has 370 km of coastline, fishing remains a small-scale industry with a yield of approximately 700 tons per year and a fleet of some 140 vessels. The entire catch is consumed locally.

18. The traditional secondary sector, i.e. the industrial sector, remains small, accounting for approximately 18.1 per cent of gross domestic product in

1989. It produces mainly consumer goods and a few other essential items. The industrial plant consists of a few bottling factories, a milk processing plant, a flour mill, and a few factories producing construction materials. Manufacturing accounts for less than 4.9 per cent of the 18.1 per cent total. The expansion of the industrial sector has been further impeded by the fact that technological advances have led to mass production methods which require a very large market. The size of Djibouti's market, however, is limited by the small population and the low household incomes. The shortage of skilled labour and the extremely high cost of energy are also serious obstacles to industrialization. Market constraints and limited profits have thus been an impediment to industrialization because of weak domestic demand, and the high cost of the factors of production and the country's inability to meet the high standards of international competitiveness have limited development of export-oriented industries.

19. The tertiary sector accounts for 77.9 per cent of GDP. In view of the marginal role of the productive sectors (agriculture and industry) in the creation of resources, the tertiary sector, and specifically services relating to port infrastructure and telecommunications facilities, remains the priority sector in the Government's medium- and long-term development strategy.

20. The tertiary sector is the country's largest foreign exchange earner. Most of this is derived from the services provided to the French military units stationed in the country or related to the other services linked to the country's role as a regional centre. Djibouti thus has a tri-polar service economy based on trade, transport and telecommunications.

21. The economy is dependent on the intense activity of the International Autonomous Port of Djibouti (IAPD); the latter is the second largest employer in the country and serves as a base for: (a) the port and airport complex for traffic to and from landlocked countries and those countries whose traditional systems of transport have been cut off (Ethiopia); (b) the port and railway complex for Ethiopian traffic; (c) the port complex alone for transshipment; and (d) the port and road complex for traffic to Somalia and Ethiopia.

22. The port of Djibouti is thus the key element of the transportation system, serving as both a commercial port and a refuelling port for trading vessels and warships. The amount of traffic varies according to political developments in neighbouring countries, but transshipment remains the most important activity. Port traffic may be broken down as follows: (a) Djibouti (24 per cent); (b) transit (10 per cent); (c) transshipment (36 per cent); and (d) hydrocarbons (30 per cent).

23. Djibouti has always enjoyed (at least up until 1991) a reputation as a haven of peace in the troubled Horn of Africa region. The country also enjoys the benefits of a well developed banking sector; a bridge which is linked to the 781 km Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway, 100 km of which is situated in Djiboutian territory and which rises from sealevel in Djibouti to an altitude of 2,350 metres at Addis Ababa and provides employment for 2,400 persons; an international airport; a 2,800 km road network of which 415 km are paved, thus facilitating the development of inter-modal traffic; adequately managed public services (electricity, water, etc.); and the most developed international telecommunications system in Africa. 2/

24. It should be noted, however, that Djibouti's so-called service economy is heavily dependent on the country's strategic location. Moreover, the dominance of the tertiary sector is reflected in the country's foreign trade. Exports of goods of local origin are insignificant and the country is heavily dependent on imported consumer goods, especially food products and capital goods. Indeed, the country's balance of payments shows that Djibouti imports almost all the goods it needs, since the primary sector is relatively undeveloped and the country has few natural resources. Exports consist mainly of food products. Approximately 8,000 tons of vegetables and cereals are imported each year, as well as 60 per cent of the meat consumed locally and 80 per cent of milk products. Other imports include textiles, various machines and electrical appliances.

25. Djibouti's principal trading partners where imports are concerned are France, the EEC countries, Ethiopia, and the Asian countries. In real terms, imports have increased by 3 per cent per annum between 1987 and 1991.

26. Between 1987 and 1991, imports amounted to 36.7 million Djibouti francs on average as against 4.2 million Djibouti francs in exports. The rate of coverage of imports by exports was thus under 11.5 per cent.

27. Exports of products of local origin account for less than 10 per cent of all exports and consist mainly of live animals (cattle on the hoof), which are driven across the frontier with Somalia and Ethiopia, leather and hides. In real terms, exports, mainly to Ethiopia, France and the countries of the Near and Middle East, rose by an annual 2 per cent between 1987 and 1991.

28. Because of the importance of the transit trade, especially with its neighbours on the coast (Ethiopia and Somalia), Djibouti's economy is very sensitive to political and economic developments in these countries. Indeed, recent events there have caused the traditional markets for services, transit and trade to shrink and have reduced the country's budgetary income during the period 1989-1991.

29. Djibouti's economy is very sensitive to and dependent upon the domestic situation of its neighbours. This may be seen in the food aid which is offloaded in Djibouti for transshipment to Ethiopia; the supplying of the northern regions of Somalia; and the passage of warships and transshipment activities during the Gulf crisis.

30. The recent Gulf crisis, which cost Djibouti's economy US$ 120 million between August 1990 and March 1991 (as a result of the folding of the national airline, Air Djibouti, which declared bankruptcy in February 1991, the increase in fuel prices and delays in the implementation of various externally financed investment projects, particularly those financed by the Gulf Arab States; 3/ the recent severe crisis in Ethiopia; the prolonged closure of the border with Somalia (up to 1991); the problem of stabilization of the factors of macroeconomic equilibrium, compounded by the internal conflict that broke out in 1991 causing an even more severe drain on Government expenditures, 4/ have all demonstrated the urgent need to restructure the economy and to replace short-term economic mechanisms by structural, productive and diversified activities.

31. The priorities of the 1991-1995 Plan are therefore geared towards promoting infrastructural programmes as well as the training of human resources, in order to permit a greater opening of the economy of Djibouti to economic flows from outside the region.

B. Social dimensions

32. The social indicators underscore the urgent need for more determined efforts to be made. Only 42.5 per cent of children attend primary school, while the illiteracy rate for the population as a whole is 61.1 per cent and for women 72 per cent. Among women aged 40 years and over, the rate exceeds 90 per cent. There is one doctor per 4,752 inhabitants and one hospital bed per approximately 351 inhabitants. In addition, because of political factors, the influx of illegal immigrants has imposed additional burdens on the education and health-care systems. This so-called floating population was estimated to be about 100,000 in 1991 (approximately 24,000 in camps and 76,000 in the capital), representing 20.8 per cent of the country's total population. The projections for 1992-1993 are hardly more encouraging, since this figure is expected to double. That Djibouti is prepared to bear this cost is due in large measure to the fact that the refugees belong to the two ethnic groups that comprise the country's population: the Issas (of Somali origin) and the Afars (of Ethiopian origin).

33. The economically active population accounts for 46.2 per cent of the population of active age. Most (88.9 per cent) are employed in the tertiary sector as against 8.5 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively in the secondary and primary sectors. Wage earners account for 79.5 per cent of the total number of employed persons, as against self-employed persons (17 per cent), domestic help and apprentices (1.9 per cent) and employers (a mere 1.6 per cent).

34. Women play an active role in the economy of Djibouti and constitute 32.2 per cent of the active population. In rural areas, they play an important role in cattle raising. In the formal urban sector, they are employed mainly as clerical or administrative staff. In the informal urban sector, most are "charcharia", unlicensed traders who travel to Saudi Arabia to purchase electronic equipment, jewellery and textiles, which they then resell in Djibouti or re-export to Somalia and Ethiopia. It has been estimated that their turnover declined by almost 70 per cent during the Gulf crisis, due to the interruption of trading activities. It is further estimated that during the eight months of the crisis, this sector lost nearly 630 million Djibouti francs, not including the losses suffered by all the small retailers involved in this trade. 5/

35. Overall, unemployment is very high, affecting 43.5 per cent of the total labour force. The country's unemployment and under-employment problems are due to the disparities between the needs of the labour market and the educational system; the absence of any system for retraining young people who have been rejected by the traditional educational system (a problem which affects nearly 75 per cent of young people under 13 years of age); the shortage of skilled labour in all fields; and the absence of a dynamic private sector.

36. Djibouti suffers from a grave shortage of skilled labour, and this has a direct impact on the country's economic management and reduces the benefits of

technical assistance, since there are not enough qualified national counterparts. In addition to the low productivity of its labour force, Djibouti suffers from serious structural problems attributable to the very high wage levels. Labour is therefore expensive and relatively untrained. The average cost of an employee in Djibouti is US$ 400 per month, as against US$ 250 in Tunisia and US$ 80 in Mauritius. Djibouti gives the impression of trying to maintain, particularly in its civil service and in the modern sector of the economy, practices similar to those of France in the field of wages and social benefits. It is therefore essential to reduce wages in the formal and structured sector of the economy in order to give Djibouti a chance to expand its role and its regional vocation by making it more competitive with other countries of the region.

37. In the field of education, despite the efforts of the authorities and of France, overall school enrolment remains low. There are fewer than 61 primary schools (including both public and private), with a total enrolment of approximately 33,492 pupils (30,157, of whom 41.4 per cent are girls, at public schools and 3,335 pupils at private schools). The pupil/teacher ratio is 43:1. The percentage of children attending primary school is only 42.5 per cent, one of the lowest in Africa.

38. The numbers drop precipitously at the end of primary school (CM2). Indeed, only 25 per cent of pupils who graduate from primary school are accepted into the first year of secondary school; 30 per cent of pupils in the fourth year prepare for the BEPC examination, and 30 per cent make it into the fifth year. In 1991, 174 pupils were successful in the school leaving examinations marking the end of the high school cycle. The young people who fail to gain admittance into secondary school therefore join the ranks of the unemployed, particulary in urban areas.

39. Enrolment figures for secondary schools (general and technical) are 7,319 for public and 1,461 for private schools. There are 544 students currently pursuing higher studies on scholarships. The consolidated primary and secondary school attendance rate is approximately 32 per cent.

40. Adapting the French education system to local needs is a slow process. Indeed, the curriculum is inappropriate to Djibouti's culture and environment. The Government and the French Cooperation Mission have undertaken to review primary school texts with a view to better adapting them to the national environment and also to review the entire primary education curriculum.

41. In this connection, the Government recently adopted a limited five-year plan (1990-1994) for education and increased budgetary appropriations for primary, secondary and technical education from 8.7 per cent for the 1987-1991 period to 13.8 per cent in 1992.

42. Overall, the Government's policy for the next decade will be aimed at expanding primary education and increasing access to secondary schooling; enhancing the effectiveness of the school system and adapting it to national needs; improving standards of technical vocational training and strengthening overall planning and management in education in order to improve efficiency and reduce costs, which are currently too high.

43. Djibouti has the best health system in the Horn of Africa, not only in terms of technical quality of the services but also in terms of availability of medicaments. Access to health services is virtually free and without restrictions. Moreover, considerable efforts have been made to provide health services to rural populations. However, the system depends heavily on technical assistance (bilateral, particularly French, assistance) and grants of equipment and medicines (usually provided under individual assistance packages from countries such as Italy and Japan). The latter cover the construction of infrastructure and gifts of medical and non-medical equipment. Approximately 1.3 per cent of GDP is allocated to the health sector, with 80.1 per cent of this amount financed from foreign assistance. To increase the proportion of domestic financing in future, the Framework Plan provides for the gradual introduction of medical fees to recover the costs of hospital care; autonomous management of major hospitals; and expanded training for nurses and nursing assistants.

III. AID COORDINATION

44. The increase both in the need for financing and in the number of donors has made proper coordination of foreign assistance to Djibouti all the more essential.

45. The setting up in February 1988 of an Interministerial Planning Commission to coordinate foreign aid and to determine the economic and social viability of investment projects before they are submitted to the Council of Ministers and to the various donors has been a promising step in this direction, particularly since the technical ministries frequently seek financing for their projects directly, often without taking into account criteria of profitability, the State's capacity to assume the debt and coordination with other institutions. A direct consequence of this procedure is that the Planning Department - the official organ responsible for elaborating the National Development Plan and for determining, through the centralization of information, the amount of financing required in the medium term to achieve the objectives set - is often completely unaware of disbursements in respect of many projects implemented through external assistance. Proper coordination should normally improve management or even optimize the overall utilization of external resources, as well as permit better harmonization of the actions of donors with the country's global development strategy.

46. In the absence of a genuine planning process, the public investment programme and the master plan for economic and social development activities and projects for 1991-1995, which cover both sectoral policies and institutional reforms, are currently the only points of reference that draw together the elements of sectoral strategies, identification of new programmes and projects, and follow-up and evaluation of projects that are under way. The plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 1991 and approved by the National Assembly on 14 May 1992.

47. UNDP has already provided technical assistance to strengthen planning capabilities in this area and to participate, through its project of assistance in management planning, in the elaboration of the Economic and Social Framework Law for 1990-2000 and in the Economic and Social Plan (1991-1995), in the

elaboration of which the private sector has participated for the first time. Development planning, which has hitherto been premised on the joint efforts of public services, has been enriched by the effective participation of the private sector, particularly with regard to the determination of the modalities for the implementation of the reforms envisaged in this sector.

48. The Act establishing the Interministerial Planning Commission provides that the latter shall be chaired by the Prime Minister and that its members shall include the Minister of Finance with respect to recurrent charges and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with respect to coordination of external assistance. While the provisions of that Act have not been affected by the recent ministerial changes, one may assume that, if any determined attempt is made to reconstitute its membership, the Commission will be chaired in future by the Minister of Planning. Unfortunately, the Commission has not yet assumed the role which has been assigned to it and its approach and working methods must be better adapted to the programming approach. For example, it should meet on a regular basis; require technical ministries and public enterprises to submit progress reports on projects that are under way or planned; and formulate a programme of public investments which could be reviewed annually.

49. There are also various bilateral or multilateral mechanisms for coordinating aid such as the Franco-Djibouti Mixed Commission set up to determine the budget of the Fonds d'aide et de coopération; the Lomé IV Convention with the EEC and the five-year country programme (1987-1992) for cooperation between UNDP and Djibouti, the budget, indicative planning figure and allocation of which are discussed in the Interministerial Planning Commission.

50. Finally, up to February 1993, the date of the ministerial reshuffling which followed the legislative elections of 18 December 1992, coordination of foreign aid was the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The Prime Minister, in addition to having responsibility for planning, was also charged with promotion and coordination of economic activities, including economic analysis and the programming of all projects. These two areas of responsibility now come under the Ministry of Planning, Land-use Management, Environment and Cooperation, which will therefore be responsible for both cooperation and investment planning. These changes are expected to result in improved planning and aid coordination.

Notes

1/ G. Foulon/M. Mahyoub; "Analyse du financement du système de santé en République de Djibouti", July 1992, p. 18.

2/ The IAPD consists of 14 quays offering berths in depths of between 9 and 12 metres; 110,000 m^2 of storage space, comprising 18 hangars; a container terminal with two 35 ton gantries and a 15 hectare free zone (used mainly as a storage area rather than as a processing zone, since the products are re-exported). Butel-Gamet report, 1988.

3/ All of the projects that were to have been financed by the Arab countries affected by the Gulf crisis had been considered in the year when the

report was prepared (1991) as abandoned. However, at the meeting on the least developed countries held in Paris, a promise was made to continue those projects financed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, IDB and AFESD.

4/ Since 1992, much of the State budget has gone to the defence of the country's territorial integrity, forcing the authorities to levy a 10 per cent patriots contribution on wages and to severely reduce funding of public agencies.

5/ UNDP: "Report on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economy of Djibouti", July 1991.

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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Yemen

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/179 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Assistance to Yemen" the General Assembly, noting the challenges facing Yemen as a result of unification, the return of Yemeni expatriates, the continuous flow of refugees from the Horn of Africa and recent natural disasters, called upon Governments, United Nations organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to assist the Government of Yemen in order to enable it to meet those challenges. In addition, it requested that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

II. MOBILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A. Emergency recovery programme

2. Following the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and to deal with the returnee needs ranging from infrastructure to employment creation, the World Bank and the Government, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations system agencies, developed a $US 245 million multi-sectoral emergency recovery programme. The programme was designed to cover the country's needs in a wide range of sectors including road construction, education, agriculture and housing.

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

3. To date, the World Bank has mobilized $60 million in credits and grants for an emergency recovery project, including $33 million from the World Bank/IDA, $15 million from USAID and $4.5 million from Germany. UNDP provided $400,000 from the Special Programme Resources for supporting countries affected by the crisis in order to assist the Government's Management Unit, which is coordinating the project.

4. Activities targeted to programme objectives by UNCDF, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Netherlands and others bring total funds available for this programme to $86 million. This leaves a funding gap of $159 million to fully implement the programme. In the meantime, 55 per cent of World Bank/IDA funds and 90 per cent of total German funds have been disbursed to date.

B. Responses of United Nations system bodies

1. United Nations Children's Fund

5. UNICEF responded to the country's emergency needs in the following particular areas:

(a) Returnees crisis: In response to a government appeal in December 1990 for emergency relief assistance, the Executive Director of UNICEF approved the release of $US 160,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund. These funds were used to procure and airfreight 14 tonnes of emergency health and drug kits to Yemen in support of relief operations in the Tihama region. A subsequent release of $US 100,000 from the Emergency Relief Fund was approved in January 1991 to procure vaccines and support field operations.

(b) Cholera control: At the request of the Government, UNICEF airfreighted a consignment of air medical supplies worth $22,000 into the country.

(c) Somali refugees: During the emergency phase of the big influx of refugees, UNICEF provided milk and food to the children camped on the beach through Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Red Crescent. Support was also provided to immunize the younger children against measles and to establish ORT Unit.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

6. Although not able to finance any activities directly related to the returnees from its own resources, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has actively participated in the formulation of the emergency recovery programme, which is complementary to the FAO programme objectives. Moreover, FAO participated in the formulation of the UNDP-coordinated Pilot Resettlement Tihama project.

7. More generally, and as part of its effort to help the Government meet these challenges, the FAO programme objectives have been redefined in collaboration with the Government to focus on three primary development problems: (a) land and water resources conservation and development, including forestry, land use

planning, watershed management etc.; (b) establishment of suitable production systems for livestock and fodder, production of crops etc.; and (c) improvement of primary support services, particularly for small holder producers, in order to establish effective linkages between national research and extension systems.

3. United Nations Development Programme

8. Apart from its contribution to the emergency recovery programme, UNDP has been involved in providing assistance to Yemen in a number of fields, most important of which are the following:

(a) The Tihama Resettlement Project for the returnees: Together with FAO, UNDP produced an initial draft for a project whose goal is to assist in the integration of the Yemeni returnees into Yemen's society through their resettlement into the rural communities, thus enabling them to maintain sustainable employment and productivity. The proposed project will allow for the utilization by the returnees of Government-selected agricultural land for their sustainable employment. Moreover, the project will provide returnees with housing, training in agriculture, animal production, cropping, and handicrafts for women, in addition to providing education, health, and veterinary services. The project which has a total budget over $5 million, of which about $1.5 million will be provided by UNDP, aims at benefiting the returnees population in the Tihama region. Mobilization of additional donor funds is under way.

(b) Somali Refugees: UNDP played a central coordinating role during the refugee crisis in mobilizing direct assistance from United Nations agencies to meet some of the needs of the refugees as they have been assessed and identified by UNHCR.

(c) Management development: In response to the country's needs following unification, UNDP has identified "Management development" as one of the four areas of concentration of its First Country Programme. To date, the organization has fielded two missions, the purpose of which was to undertake a country-wide assessment of management development bottle-necks, and to propose a comprehensive programme of technical assistance to improve the country's management of its various resources, including human resources. To date, $1.5 million is earmarked for a number of projects that are currently under design to be implemented following the reorganization of government administration in the post-election period.

(d) Human development: As part of the country programme's area of concentration on human development, UNDP has emphasized the sector of vocational training which will focus on improving the country's capacity for vocational training with the aim of substantially benefitting the returnees, as part of an overall improvement in the employment situation in the country. The UNDP field office has already implemented a TSS-1 exercise for developing a programme for that particular sector.

4. World Food Programme

9. The World Food Programme (WFP) has approved the following two projects:

(a) Emergency operation Yemen 49564 "Assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees" valued at $260,000 for 6,000 refugees over a period of six months (20 February to 17 August 1992);

(b) Emergency operation Yemen 4954 Expansion "Assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees" valued at $1,381,957 for 25,000 refugees over a period of six months (additional resources have been mobilized from Italy, Germany, France and Oman).

10. WFP fielded a mission to Yemen from end May to mid-June 1993 to appraise a project Yemen 2694 Expansion II "Assistance to health and social sectors". The project's estimated cost to WFP is $22,264,700 and its duration is three years. Under this project, it is proposed that about 12,000 returnees will be trained in various vocational skills including carpentry, plumbing, masonry, electrical and handicraft training.

11. Once operational, WFP has agreed in principle to provide assistance ($723,000 for 19 months) under the emergency recovery programme for Yemeni returnees to the following components by incorporating the relevant activities in its ongoing projects: (a) Tihama resettlement project for returnees and (b) construction of feeder and secondary roads.

12. Returnees and their families have the opportunity to benefit in their respective areas from the following ongoing WFP-assisted projects in the country:

(a) Project Yemen 4695 "Assistance for primary education";

(b) Project Yemen 4788 "Development of rural community infrastructure";

(c) Project Yemen 2694 "Assistance to health care units, hospitals and social centres" (in the northern region of the country);

(d) Project 2453 Expansion III "Assistance to MCH (maternal and child health) centres;

(e) Soil and water conservation (southern region).

5. United Nations Population Fund

13. The response of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the country's situation in the aftermath of the Crisis concentrated on those issues which fall within the Fund's mandate including the socio-economic, demographic and henceforth educational, health and environmental consequences of the Crisis.

14. UNFPA funded a national workshop to discuss the socio-economic and demographic consequences of the problem of the returnees and to help planners and decision-makers to identify the most effective ways for addressing the

situation. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Yemeni Centre for Studies and Research in Sana'a. Key ministries participated in the workshop and contributed in the different fields of health, education, housing, trade industries etc.

15. Following the workshop, UNFPA participated in a demographic field survey in the main concentration areas of the returnees (Hodeidah and Hadramout). The survey was implemented under one of the UNFPA-funded projects, YEM/87/P04, in collaboration with the Central Statistical office. Findings and results of that survey provided the bench-mark for the preparations of the first National Population Conference (October 1991) as well as the National Population Strategy, with respect to the returnees, immigration and the labour force at large.

16. A sub-contract was signed with the Ministry of Immigrants Affairs to undertake further socio-economic and demographic field surveys to analyse the demographic aspects of the returnees after one year of settlement.

17. During the formulation of the UNFPA country programme (1992-1996) the problem of the returnees was taken into consideration. Accordingly the area of Maternal/Child Health and Family Planning was given a priority in the distribution of the programme resources to meet the new demands in such an important area. Some projects are already approved with the Ministry of Health and the Yemen Family Care Association. Other projects are under way in terms of formulation and/or approval.

18. The Fund's contribution and assistance to the 1994 National Population and Housing Census is a major activity under the new country programme, the importance of which is evident. The census will be the first to be conducted country-wide covering all regions of the country.

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Implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The World Summit for Children, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 and 30 September 1990, was an unprecedented gathering of world leaders. Seventy-one Heads of State or Government, together with delegations from an additional 88 countries led by ministers and ambassadors, met to consider the situation of children around the world. The Summit adopted the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s (A/45/625, annex) with ambitious but achievable goals for the decade of the 1990s.

2. In its resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by the World Summit for Children of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action, urged all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed therein, urged the donor countries especially to assist developing countries in achieving these goals and urged all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, to provide support for the follow-up of the World Summit for Children. In its decision 47/447 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an update of it for consideration at its forty-eighth session. The present document has been prepared in response to that request.

II. OVERVIEW

3. Keeping the promises and commitments of the World Summit for Children has been facilitated through two concrete instruments at the national level: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, annex), now ratified by over 140 Governments; and the national programmes of action (NPAs), which the 149 countries that have signed the Declaration committed themselves to prepare. As of 15 July 1993, 86 countries had finalized their NPAs, another 29 were available in draft form and an additional 27 were under preparation.

4. High-level commitment to maintaining the momentum of the World Summit for Children and to achieving its goals has been demonstrated in a large number of global and regional forums involving heads of state, ministers and other senior officials. These include the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Nutrition, the second World Conference on Human Rights, the World Health Assembly, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization for African Unity (OAU) Summit, the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Summit, the League of Arab States, the Ibero-American Summit, the Caribbean Community Summit, and many more regional and sub-regional groupings.

5. Several of these high-level gatherings at the regional level have set specific targets to be achieved by mid-decade to spearhead the advance towards the goals for children by the year 2000. These mid-decade targets naturally vary from region to region, but there is a core group of health targets common

to them all which was endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Committee on Health Policy and subsequently by the governing bodies of both organizations. It has been calculated that the achievement of these mid-decade targets could avoid the deaths of 2 million children per year, as compared to 1992.

6. Another remarkable development is the implementation of the World Summit's call for provincial and local governments to prepare their own programmes of action for children. This effort is gathering momentum in all major regions.

7. The translation of these programmes into concrete action is well advanced in some countries and only starting in others, but the steps that have been taken so far give hope that the promises are indeed being kept.

III. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

A. Status of preparation

8. The status of preparation of NPAs as of 15 July 1993 is presented in table 1 below. Some 89 per cent of children around the world live in countries with NPAs either finalized or in draft form. In 1992, sub-Saharan Africa was the region with the fewest finalized NPAs, but this year it has more completed NPAs than any other region. The International Conference on Assistance to African Children, held in November 1992 and sponsored by the OAU, was a catalyst for the acceleration of NPA preparation in Africa. Latin America, which led the list in 1992, still has the highest proportion of finalized NPAs, while Asia, because of the population preponderance of its larger countries, leads in the proportion of children covered with 99 per cent. The smallest proportion is among the republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, many of which were not represented separately at the Summit, and all of which are undergoing transformations that make long- or even medium-term planning and programming extremely difficult. Similarly, most of the developing countries that have not reported any action are countries affected by war, disaster or other extreme difficulties. The number of industrialized countries with finalized NPAs has doubled in the past year, but the number for which no action has been reported has changed only modestly, from 24 to 18.

Table 1. Status of completion of national programmes of action by region as of 15 July 1993

	Finalized	In draft	Preparation under way	No action reported	Total	Percentage of child population (under 16) in region covered by NPAs, either finalized or in draft
Asia	15	9	3	6	33	99
Latin America and the Caribbean	21	3	7	2	33	97
Middle East and North Africa	10	5	5	1	21	90
Sub-Saharan Africa	27	10	4	5	46	88
Industrialized countries (including Central and Eastern Europe)	13	2	7	19	41	67
Former Soviet Union	0	0	1	14	15	-
Total	86	29	27	47	189	89 (of global child population)

B. The national programme of action process

9. Most NPAs are integrated into the national development planning process, or its equivalent, wherever such a process exists. The NPA process is not simply a technocratic exercise, however. In many countries it is a capacity-building process through which, often for the first time, many different sectors of government and civil society take a comprehensive approach to the totality of children's and women's needs. The preparation, completion and implementation of the NPA often involves a broad selection of institutions, governmental and non-governmental, religious and secular, public and private, national, regional and local. In many countries, while the NPA document has been officially promulgated, it is still considered as requiring improvements, regular updating and further elaboration.

10. The commission responsible for NPA implementation in the Dominican Republic has representation from 125 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In several countries, the endorsement of all political tendencies has been sought, as in Costa Rica, where the NPA was approved by the country's Legislative Assembly. Children themselves participated in the preparation of Ecuador's NPA, assuring special emphasis on the rights of the child. In the United Republic of Tanzania, specially convened "summits" of the legislatures were held in 1991 on both the mainland and in Zanzibar to approve the bases on which the NPA is being drafted. In the Republic of Korea, a National Council on Children and Youth, composed of government and NGO representatives, has been established to monitor implementation of the NPA. In a number of Latin American countries, the Catholic Church is a specific partner in the NPA implementation and monitoring process. In Brazil, the "Pact for Children" brings together both the legislative and executive branches of the Government, the National Council of Brazilian Bishops, the governors of the 27 states and the most important organizations of civil society. In Nepal, the Government, NGOs, professional associations, popular groups and the private sector were all deeply involved in preparations for the Summit and continued this involvement in the preparation of the NPA. The involvement of NGOs in preparation and implementation is made explicit in the NPAs of such countries as Botswana, Canada, El Salvador, Ecuador, Malawi, Morocco, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

11. The personal commitment of Heads of State or Government is an important factor in assuring that the NPA receives the attention it deserves from the various sectors within a country. In Mexico, President Salinas de Gortari, one of the six conveners of the World Summit for Children, has participated fully in the NPA process and has committed his country to the preparation of programmes of action for the country's most important cities, as well as to achieving 80 per cent use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) by the end of 1994. The President of Senegal committed his authority and prestige by hosting the International Conference on Assistance to African Children.

C. Involvement of international and bilateral agencies at the country level

12. Many United Nations agencies and international financial institutions have been involved in the process of follow-up to the World Summit for Children at country level. This involvement has taken the form of participation in the

preparation and implementation of NPAs. Although the data is based on explicit references in the NPAs themselves and is, therefore, far from exhaustive, table 2 below gives some idea of the extent of this involvement.

Table 2. References to involvement of United Nations agencies and international financial institutions in national programmes of action

Institution	Number of countries	Institution	Number of countries
UNDP	32	ILO	7
WHO	24	IDB	6
World Bank	17	FAO	6
UNFPA	17	Asian Development Bank	2
UNESCO	13	African Development Bank	1
WFP	11		

13. There has been extensive bilateral cooperation in the NPA process. Table 3 below provides a list of donor countries in the order of the frequency with which they are mentioned as contributors to the implementation of the programmes and projects presented in the NPAs. Again, this table presents only those instances in which the donor is explicitly mentioned in the NPA.

Table 3. References to bilateral involvement in national programmes of action

Donor	Number of NPAs	Donor	Number of NPAs
United States	19	Finland	4
Netherlands	10	Italy	4
Germany	6	Norway	2
France	6	Australia	1
Japan	6	China	1
Sweden	5	Denmark	1
European Community	5	Switzerland	1
Canada	5	Spain	1
United Kingdom	4	Cuba	1

IV. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

14. The vast majority of countries whose leaders pledged in the Summit Declaration to work for early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child have honoured that pledge. As of 15 July 1993, some 144 countries had ratified the Convention and an additional 19 had signed it. This Convention now has the highest number of ratifications of any international convention in history. Progress in ratification has been so swift, thanks in part to the commitments made at the World Summit for Children, that universal ratification now seems a possibility. Accordingly, at its 1993 session the UNICEF Executive Board called for universal ratification of the Convention by 1995, a goal that was subsequently endorsed by the second World Conference on Human Rights. Since this goal was first proposed the pace of ratifications has further accelerated.

15. Reports were due by the end of 1992 from the first 45 countries to have ratified the Convention. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has received many of these and has held its first set of hearings on them. These hearings were marked by their very constructive atmosphere of dialogue rather than confrontation, in which the Committee and the countries focused on solutions to the problems countries are encountering in implementing the Convention.

16. NPAs are linked closely with the implementation of the Convention. This link is made explicit in many NPAs from all parts of the world. Among industrialized countries, the Nordic countries, Canada and the Netherlands are especially notable for the way that the Convention is central to their NPAs. Even where it is only implicit, the NPA is one of the few instruments available for setting a time-frame for a Government's minimum core of obligations under the Convention. This has been recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which has included the NPA among the documents it wishes to review in connection with the reports it receives from States Parties to the Convention.

V. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Sub-Saharan Africa

17. At the twenty-seventh OAU Summit, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991, African leaders decided to convene an International Conference for Assistance to African Children. Accordingly, delegations of some 44 Governments, most of them led at the ministerial level, met at Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992, and adopted the Consensus of Dakar (A/C.2/47/13, annex). In that document the Governments, together with donor partners from 18 industrialized countries and representatives of international financial institutions, United Nations and regional organizations and international and African NGOs, reaffirmed the need to translate the commitments of the World Summit for Children into concrete programmes of action that can be implemented.

18. Specifically, the African countries attending the Conference committed themselves (a) to develop and implement NPAs and to incorporate them into their bilateral and multilateral consultative processes and development programmes; (b) to undertake new efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts in Africa and to apply universally the principles of "corridors of peace" and "days of tranquillity"; (c) to restructure government budgets to support the key goals of

their NPAs and shift resources away from non-productive uses, such as military/internal security expenditures and subsidies for inefficient state organizations; and (d) to support an increase in domestic resource mobilization through such actions as national tax reform and the encouragement of community actions and contributions. The African countries also committed themselves to reaching a set of intermediate goals by 1995.

19. Donor and international financial institutions present at the Conference also committed themselves to provide resources to support NPAs and to increase and sustain the share of official development assistance (ODA) to social priority sectors by 1995 in line with increasing commitments by African countries, bearing in mind the level of 20 per cent of ODA for these sectors recommended by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Donor partners and international financial institutions also committed themselves to make every effort to promote debt cancellation or relief for African countries. A continental follow-up mechanism was established under the auspices of OAU to monitor the overall formulation and implementation of NPAs and submit progress reports to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

B. Asia

20. Soon after the World Summit for Children, the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), assembled in Male, Maldives, called for a regional plan of action and declared the period 1991-2000 as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child. This plan of action was endorsed by the subsequent SAARC Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in December 1991, which requested that its Council of Ministers ensure an annual review of its implementation. All of the SAARC countries have completed their NPAs. At the second SAARC Conference on Children in South Asia held in Colombo in September 1992, ministers and other senior officials, in the Colombo Resolution on Children (A/C.3/47/10, annex), recommended a set of intermediate targets aimed at catalysing and accelerating progress towards the goals for the decade. These include access to, and enrolment in, primary education for at least 80 per cent of boys and 75 per cent of girls, and completion of primary education by at least 50 per cent of girls and boys by 1995; universal use of ORT for home-based treatment of diarrhoea and universal access to oral rehydration salts by 1996; progressive reduction of gender disparity in all the goal-related indicators; and raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to at least 18 years. The Seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka in April 1993 endorsed this Colombo Resolution on Children.

21. Two regional consultations on the rights of the child were held in East Asia, the first immediately before the World Summit for Children in August 1990. The second, held two years later in Beijing involved 13 countries from East Asia and the Pacific, 11 of which had already either ratified or acceded to the Convention. Three members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including its Chairman, also participated. The report of the meeting, entitled "The Beijing Consensus", emphasized the important links between NPAs and implementation of the Convention, supported the establishment of a regional information network to support implementation of the Convention and the World Summit Plan of Action, and recommended follow-up consultations on NPAs in the region.

C. Middle East and North Africa

22. The League of Arab States held a high-level meeting on child welfare, protection and development in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 1992, at which 21 countries adopted a pan-Arab plan for further major improvements in the situation of children over the coming decade. This plan set targets for the year 1995 which include the eradication of polio, a 95 per cent reduction of measles deaths in the region, the elimination of neonatal tetanus, an 80 per cent usage of ORT, universal salt iodization, halting the free distribution of breast-milk substitutes and the designation of all major hospitals as "baby-friendly". The meeting called for effective monitoring systems in every Arab State and established a permanent committee for follow-up to the implementation of the plan.

23. Representatives of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates met in December 1992, together with representatives of UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and regional institutions, to review the status of NPAs and identify focal points from each country for further coordination and implementation.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

24. The Third Ibero-American Summit in July 1993 (see A/48/291-S/26242, annex) stressed the need to give priority to the allocation of resources to ensure the implementation of the NPAs, decided to fully integrate the NPAs into national development strategies and urged international and bilateral cooperation agencies to give priority to the allocation of the necessary financial and technical resources to the execution of NPAs. The Summit also approved and endorsed the recommendations of a preparatory seminar on "Children in the Agenda of Development and Democracy" concerning decentralization in preparation and implementation of NPAs, improved social statistics, consolidation and coordination of monitoring activities and the definition of mid-term goals and their costs. On the occasion of that Summit the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced plans to double the proportion of its resources devoted to social development from 25 to 50 per cent. The CARICOM Summit held in Trinidad and Tobago in June 1992 likewise made recommendations for the preparation and implementation of NPAs in its member countries.

25. Ministers and other representatives of 19 Latin American Governments met in Mexico City, Mexico, in October 1992 to evaluate progress made with respect to NPAs in their countries. They affirmed that NPAs should be a basic component of strategies to combat poverty and reduce social inequalities and called for the participation of diverse government sectors and NGOs in their implementation, as well as for the application of NPAs at local government levels, fiscal and budgetary policies that favour children and appropriate NPA monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. They also recommended an annual regional meeting of those responsible for NPAs in order to compare experiences and review progress. The Government of Colombia will host the next meeting in Bogotá in October 1993, to which all countries of the hemisphere have been invited.

26. The First Ladies of 12 Latin American and Caribbean States and representatives of eight other Latin American Governments met in Cartagena,

Colombia, in September 1992, to further the commitments made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the World Summit for Children, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Geneva Declaration on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women. They called for the implementation of NPAs in fulfilment of the priority goals enunciated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and specifically called for the elimination of neonatal tetanus in the region by 1995.

27. Technical meetings on Summit follow-up have involved numerous regional institutions. An inter-agency committee organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with representation from UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), IDB and the United States Agency for International Development has been meeting regularly to discuss progress and formulate strategies and workplans, particularly as regards the maternal and child health goals for the decade. A UNICEF-organized technical meeting on monitoring progress towards the decade goals in March 1992 included experts from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and numerous other regional institutions. A meeting on indicators for monitoring progress towards the nutritional goals, involving PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank, was held in Washington, D.C., in October 1992.

B. Industrialized countries

28. Industrialized countries that have completed NPAs since the previous report are Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States. It is disappointing, however, that several industrialized countries have signed the World Summit Declaration but have not issued the NPA to which they had committed themselves. In some industrialized countries, there is a perception that NPAs are not applicable as they have achieved a high level of well-being for their children. However, as the NPAs of some of the most advanced industrialized countries make clear, the NPA is the appropriate follow-up to the Summit commitments of all countries, rich and poor alike.

29. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics form a special group. Rapid social and economic transition and, in some cases, civil strife make any long- or even medium-term planning extremely difficult. Nevertheless, strategies and programmes for the survival, protection and development of children are as necessary in these countries as they are elsewhere, if not more so. While the time-frame for specific programmes may need to be much shorter than the remainder of the decade, strategies at least for the medium term can be elaborated and some goals and objectives established for the decade. Monitoring systems capable of tracking the effects of the transition on children and women are especially important. Thus, the NPA process is relevant to these countries, adapted to the specific realities of each country in terms of phasing, priorities, standards and available resources. Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and the Russian Federation are among countries in this group which have begun the process of preparing NPAs.

30. The percentage of ODA that is allocated to basic human needs (nutrition, water supply, sanitation, primary health care (PHC), primary education and

family planning) has been the subject of intensive scrutiny since the World Summit for Children. The UNDP Human Development Report 1992 and UNICEF's 1993 State of the World's Children report indicate that less than 10 per cent of bilateral aid is allocated to such purposes. UNDP and UNICEF are urging that the percentage of aid for basic human needs be increased to at least 20 per cent and that developing country governments' budget allocations to these sectors reach a similar percentage. If ODA and national budgetary allocations were to be restructured to meet this "20/20" formula, the major portion of the additional financial resources needed to reach the NPAs goals would be guaranteed. NPAs of some donor countries, such as the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, indicate an effort to review both bilateral and multilateral assistance to promote the goals and objectives of the World Summit and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but the question of relative proportions of ODA to priority human needs is not discussed directly in any donor country NPA.

VI. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

31. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also endorsed the Summit goals. Agenda 21 states that specific major goals agreed upon at the Summit remain valid also for Agenda 21, which goes on to say that Governments, according to their policies, should take measures to (a) ensure the survival, protection and development of children, in accordance with the goals endorsed by the 1990 World Summit for Children; and (b) ensure that the interests of children are taken fully into account in the participatory process for sustainable development and environmental improvement. 1/

32. At the International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome in December 1992, the list of goals endorsed by the Summit was annexed to the Conference declaration. A new goal on the elimination of famine was also adopted. Governments also agreed to prepare national plans of action, coordinated as appropriate with follow-up activities related to the World Summit for Children. NGO support was an important influence in the shaping of these decisions at the Conference and NGOs - both national and international - that attended the Conference have created a Global Food and Nutrition Alliance to stimulate and coordinate NGO follow-up to the Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted there.

33. The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, called for universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995 and the universal signing of the World Summit for Children Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as their effective implementation. The Conference also urged States to withdraw reservations to the Convention contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law.

34. In support of the goal of empowering all women to breast-feed their children, the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative, which seeks to have hospitals promote breast-feeding and end the distribution of free or low-cost breast-milk substitutes, has made impressive progress. By the end of June 1993, some 127 developing countries had banned or did not receive free or low-cost supplies. Compliance with government bans remains a problem in some developing countries, and three developing countries with ongoing distribution had not acted to end the practice by mid-1993. Approximately 800 hospitals in over 100 developing

countries are committed to achieving or have already achieved "baby-friendly" status. WHO and UNICEF are urging that the distribution of free and low-cost breast-milk substitutes end in industrialized countries by the middle of 1994.

35. The Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September 1992 (see A/47/675-S/24816, annex), reaffirmed their commitment to realizing the goals adopted at the World Summit for Children through the implementation of NPAs, and urged early ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also reaffirmed the principle of a "first call for children" as a moral imperative for the emergence of a new international order. In addition, the Group for South-South Cooperation and Consultation, meeting in Dakar in November, emphasized the need to implement the Summit recommendations.

36. Mayors and municipal leaders from 45 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania, gathered in Mexico City in July 1993 at the Second International Colloquium of Mayors, Defenders of Children, reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals established at the World Summit for Children and called upon their counterparts around the world to do likewise, adapting national programmes of action to municipal realities.

VII. RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

37. Most of the goals set at the World Summit for Children originated in the prior declarations of the World Health Assembly, the World Conference on Education for All, and in the policy statements of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank and others. The relevant specialized and funding agencies offered their ideas and shared their experiences in the preparation of the Summit Declaration. The result of this collaborative effort is amply reflected in the Declaration and the Plan of Action.

38. Since the World Summit, the involvement of bodies of the United Nations system in implementing the Plan of Action has been substantial but uneven in two senses. Some agencies have shown greater commitment than others, and the participation of United Nations agencies in Summit follow-up activities has been stronger in some countries than in others. In certain instances there has been a tendency for both Government and United Nations agencies to treat the Summit as essentially a UNICEF concern and to look to UNICEF as the primary United Nations agency responsible for Summit follow-up. UNICEF, while playing its part, has had to dispel this notion on numerous occasions.

39. In this respect, it should be emphasized most strongly that the goals and strategies of the World Summit for Children are closely aligned with the recent growing consensus in the international community on the importance of human development as reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The Summit goals, in fact, emerged directly from the debate and decisions within the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and deliberations in the governing bodies of relevant United Nations agencies. These goals and strategies also reflect, in very specific, measurable

terms the priorities expressed in the UNDP Human Development Reports and the World Bank's World Development Reports of 1990 and 1991 which have identified poverty alleviation and investment in people as key strategies for socio-economic development.

40. The Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children recognized the important role of the United Nations system and specifically requested its full cooperation and collaboration in ensuring the achievement of the goals and objectives of the World Summit. General Assembly resolution 45/217 responded to this request.

41. Inter-agency collaboration to support the implementation of the commitments of the World Summit for Children has been a subject of consultations among heads of agencies and at the technical level in the Administrative Committee on Coordination, its Subcommittees and task forces, the Consultative Group on Substantive Questions (Operations), as well as in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and its various Sub-groups.

42. An important step in follow-up to the World Summit for Children is the development of measures for monitoring progress towards the decade goals. Following earlier work on indicators for assessing breast-feeding practices through household surveys, 1992 saw the development of indicators for breast-feeding in health care facilities. A joint UNICEF/WHO expert meeting on the measurement of under-five mortality rates, both overall and by cause of death, was held in December 1992. Recommendations were issued on measures to use in monitoring related goals and on additional actions to be taken. In October 1992, UNICEF issued a preliminary set of guidelines for monitoring progress in the reduction of maternal mortality. Also during 1992, the UNICEF/WHO Joint Water and Sanitation Monitoring System issued its first report, establishing the decade's baseline, and UNICEF and the International Fund for Agricultural Development published jointly a technical review of concepts, indicators and measurements for household food security. UNESCO and UNICEF are working together to develop, test and implement measures of learning achievement; an inter-agency meeting in late 1992 discussed progress and recent country experiences. WHO and UNICEF have agreed on a core set of indicators for all the health and nutrition goals. These were reviewed by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy in February 1993. WHO will include these indicators in its periodic monitoring of progress towards health for all by the year 2000. UNDP and UNICEF are collaborating on the evaluation of aid flows taking place within the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

A. World Health Organization

43. Because so many of the goals of the World Summit for Children had already been adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) within the context of "Health for All by the Year 2000", WHO has been in the forefront of follow-up activities as they affect the health sector. In May 1991, WHA adopted a resolution (WHA 44.33) on "World Summit for Children: follow-up action", which welcomed and fully supported the Declaration and Plan of Action and recognized that attainment of the Summit goals for children and development in the 1990s was essential for reaching the overall goals of health for all by the year 2000. In

the resolution the Assembly invited WHO member States to give the political and economic priority necessary to implement the commitments set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action, and requested the Director-General of WHO, in cooperation with UNICEF and others concerned, to implement the actions outlined in his report and to monitor achievements in child health in all countries. These requests were reiterated at the forty-sixth World Health Assembly in May 1993 (resolutions WHA 46.17 and 46.18). WHO and UNICEF are coordinating Summit follow-up activities at numerous secretariat levels, and also at the level of their governing bodies through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

44. UNESCO welcomed the World Summit for Children as it further reinforced the drive towards accelerating basic education spurred by the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All. 2/ Cooperation between the governing bodies of UNICEF and UNESCO on Summit follow-up is institutionalized through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Education. A joint UNESCO/UNICEF initiative to focus on the nine largest developing countries, where 75 per cent of the world's illiterate population live, will be endorsed at the highest level of government at the Education for All Summit being hosted by the Government of India, to be held in November 1993. UNESCO and UNICEF are also working together to promote early child development and to support parents in their role as first educators of their children, and also in devising a monitoring system to measure learning achievement in five countries. The two agencies also collaborated on the Pan-African Conference on Education of Girls held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in March-April 1993 attended by eight Ministers of Education and other high-level educators.

C. United Nations Population Fund

45. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also attached considerable importance to the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit, which is complementary to and supportive of the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations (A/C.2/44/6, annex). Given the Fund's focus on maternal and child health and family planning, most of the provisions of the World Summit Plan of Action are of direct relevance to UNFPA. The four major multilateral organizations involved in the field of maternal and child health - WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA - have agreed on joint goals reflecting the Summit objectives and have issued joint guidelines to their field offices for enhancing their collaboration. UNFPA and UNICEF have indicated ways in which each will be responding to the Summit in areas related to family planning in a report presented to the UNICEF Executive Board.

D. United Nations Development Programme

46. In many countries UNDP has played an active role in organizing inter-agency support to Governments in formulating national programmes of action and other supportive sectoral programmes aimed at achieving the goals and strategies of

the World Summit for Children. UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Office in Vienna have fielded a number of joint missions to advise and assist Governments in formulating human development strategies and plans. As UNDP's human development initiative and the goals and strategies of the World Summit are broadly synergistic, these missions have been helpful to countries in formulating their NPAs. For example, the NPAs of Pakistan and Ghana are a collaborative product of the UNDP Human Development Initiative, UNICEF country programme support and the World Bank Social Action Programmes. Similarly, the NPAs in the five countries of Central America, Panama and Belize were prepared with extensive assistance from UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies. This inter-agency collaboration has resulted in more broadly focused NPAs incorporating the World Summit goals with strategies for human development and reduction of poverty espoused by UNDP in the region. UNDP support to the Children's Vaccine Initiative ($21.6 million proposed for the period 1992-1996) is also a direct response to the World Summit.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

47. UNHCR, more than half of whose target population are children, has long been committed to the principles enshrined at the World Summit for Children. They form the basis of UNHCR policies and programmes to assist, protect and promote the development needs of refugee children. UNHCR Guidelines on Refugee Children date back to 1988 but have been revised in the light of the World Summit for Children and the heightened inter-agency collaboration it has engendered. UNHCR has recently appointed a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children to enhance coordination of services, in close cooperation with the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women. Concern for children in conflict situations expressed in both the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children have been addressed by UNHCR in joint UNHCR/UNICEF statements on the evacuation of refugee children, joint missions to address the rights of children who are unaccompanied or at risk of abandonment as a result of conflict, the inclusion of funds for education in joint emergency appeals and efforts to try to respond immediately to the psycho-social needs of children traumatized by conflict.

F. International Labour Organisation

48. The long-standing efforts of ILO towards protection of working children and the abolition of child labour have received added impetus recently with the establishment of the Interdepartmental Project on Elimination of Child Labour (INTERDEP), the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the World Summit for Children. INTERDEP concentrates on promoting policies on the abolition of child labour and the protection of working children through regional and national seminars, awareness raising, and research on the nature and extent of the problem and possible approaches to alleviating it. Through IPEC this work is translated into action projects at the local and national levels. In these activities ILO collaborates with other international organizations, particularly UNICEF and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

G. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

49. FAO committed itself to take the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action into account in formulating the organization's Medium-Term Plan. The December 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, convened by FAO and WHO, gave a major impetus to the pursuit of the nutrition-related goals of the World Summit.

H. World Food Programme

50. The World Food Programme's actions in emergencies and in development programmes are directly supportive of the objectives and goals set forth by the World Summit for Children. Echoing the sentiments expressed at the World Summit, the World Food Council has proposed an international agreement on the safe passage of emergency food aid to people affected by civil strife, war and natural disasters.

I. International Fund for Agricultural Development

51. Programmes supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) contribute to the improvement of the economic position of small farmers, especially women, whose empowerment is essential for reaching the goals of the World Summit for Children. In February 1992, IFAD helped organize in Geneva a Summit meeting of First Ladies on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women. This Summit was seen as complementary to and supportive of the World Summit for Children. IFAD has taken a number of steps to implement the results of the Geneva Summit. It has produced strategies for the economic advancement of poor rural women and operational guidelines for project gender analysis. Specific IFAD projects all over the world are now designed with focus on such aspects as the gender dimension of access to land, women's labour constraints, gender aspects of technology research and the participation of women in rural micro-enterprise. Resolution 77/XVI of the sixteenth session of the IFAD Governing Council, held in January 1993, reiterated the organization's commitment to the goals of the Geneva Summit.

J. Commission on Human Rights

52. At its forty-ninth session, in February and March of 1993 the Commission on Human Rights adopted a Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour (Commission resolution 1993/79, annex). The plan of action calls for special attention for the most vulnerable categories of children - street children and children of immigrants, refugees, minorities and indigenous groups.

K. Regional commissions

53. The regional commissions of the United Nations have been responsive to the World Summit in various ways. For example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has entered into agreement with UNICEF to analyse the relationship between the World Summit goals for children and the Commission's own proposal for productive transformation with equity. This will include an analysis of NPAs by the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning to determine training needs for officials in charge of NPAs in the region. ECLAC is also closely associated with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in supporting national statistical institutions to help develop the necessary household surveys and monitoring mechanisms for follow-up to the World Summit.

L. World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

54. The World Bank's lending for education and health has already grown substantially, with an increasing shift within these sectors to primary health care and primary education. The Bank's 1993 World Development Report is devoted to the subject of investing in health and calls for a set of actions and reforms that are largely congruent with the goals of the World Summit for Children, to which it dedicates a special panel. National programmes of action for children have been discussed at consultative group meetings of donors held under the World Bank auspices. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a letter to the Secretary-General has committed the institutions's help in assisting national authorities in identifying areas in which expenditure can be cut, revenue increased, or productivity raised in order to free additional resources to be devoted to activities to help alleviate the goals of the World Summit for Children and other critical social objectives.

M. United Nations Children's Fund

55. In its decision 1991/10, the UNICEF Executive Board requested the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF, working under the leadership of the Secretary-General and in cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies, as an integrated part of its regular activities, provides full support to developing countries within its mandate, comparative advantage and resources, for the achievement of objectives contained in the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children. In decision 1993/12, the Executive Board encouraged countries to examine their NPAs so as to identify feasible targets for achievement by mid-decade. In decision 1993/13 it called upon all States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so and endorsed the year 1995 as a target date for every State in the world to have become a party to the Convention. UNICEF has also been working with international NGOs to broaden support for the World Summit goals and encourage NGOs to develop programmes which will assist Governments to implement their NPAs.

56. UNICEF support to developing countries in their follow-up to the World Summit for Children has been part of the country programme process that characterizes UNICEF cooperation. Thus the situation analyses of children and

women that UNICEF assists Governments to prepare have often served as a useful background material for the preparation of the national programme of action. The NPAs in turn provide the larger national framework within which UNICEF programmes of cooperation are situated. UNICEF cooperation in monitoring and evaluation as part of the country programme is a useful foundation on which Governments are building databases for monitoring progress towards the achievement of NPA goals. UNICEF has been working with relevant United Nations agencies to develop joint approaches to monitoring progress towards achievement of the World Summit goals.

* * *

57. It can be seen from the above that the United Nations system has responded to the World Summit for Children in a variety of ways and in many parts of the world. Of course, there is more that needs to be done, in supporting the preparation and refinement of NPAs where these have still not been finalized, in supporting their implementation wherever they have, and, for those agencies which have not done so, in preparing their own plans and programmes as called for by paragraph 35 (iii) of the World Summit Plan of Action.

58. Donor countries have been strong in urging greater inter-agency collaboration in World Summit follow-up. As one of the initiating countries for the World Summit for Children, Canada has been active in this regard. Even before the Summit, the Canadian Prime Minister wrote to the heads of the World Bank, the regional development banks, UNDP and other agencies urging these institutions to actively support the follow-up of the Summit. The NPAs of both Finland and Sweden emphasize that to achieve the goals set by the Summit measures are needed throughout the United Nations system and that the targets of the different agencies should be coordinated.

59. In resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly called for a United Nations country strategy note to be formulated by interested recipient Governments with the assistance of, and in cooperation with, the United Nations system under the leadership of the resident coordinator on the basis of the priorities and plans of recipient countries. Since they are plans prepared by the countries themselves on the basis of their own priorities, NPAs will undoubtedly play an important role in the elaboration of the country strategy note. At the global level, actions to incorporate the NPA process into the country strategy approach at the field level are being discussed through such forums as the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, the Consultative Group on Substantive Questions (Operations) and other inter-agency forums.

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

60. The World Summit for Children was regarded as a landmark event by humanitarian and developmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in that their contribution to national development was recognized at the highest political level, in many cases for the first time. Those working in child-related areas particularly welcomed the invitation extended to them in the Declaration to cooperate actively with Governments in formulating and implementing national plans of action to reach the Summit goals. In some 80

countries, this has resulted in close consultations between Governments and NGOs in the development of national programmes of action.

61. At the global level, a large number of NGOs working in child-related areas have taken Summit follow-up actions within the framework of their own respective mandates. While some have prepared specific programmes of action to implement and support the goals endorsed by the Summit, others have reviewed or restructured existing programmes to bring them in line with these goals. The NGO Christian Children's Fund has developed a set of Ten Steps based on the World Summit goals which have been incorporated into its national programmes. Its offices are now in the process of field testing indicators to measure progress towards these goals. The International Council of Nurses has published specific guidelines for their national chapters (a) to take the lead in promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, (b) to participate in programmes that address the needs of the girl child, particularly in nutrition, health, and education, and (c) to initiate activities to protect children from abuse and violence. The "Voice of the Children" campaign organized children's hearings in 52 countries, providing an opportunity for children to call the attention of Governments and the general public to their concerns on the environment. Representatives from these campaigns then spoke at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The NGO group Results has spearheaded a "Keeping the Promise" campaign in many countries and communities. It has influenced important legislative action in support of the Summit goals in Canada, the United States of America and several other countries.

62. NGOs are providing strong support for the universal ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is playing a key role in coordinating information flow between the NGO community and the Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as facilitating the monitoring and implementation of the Convention at the national level through the development of national coalitions of NGOs. Through advocacy and collaborative efforts, International Save the Children Alliance has prepared a Strategy Paper on children's rights and continued their educational programmes on the Convention. The NGO Committee on UNICEF produced a Summary of International Treaties to Protect Children in Armed Conflict in order to familiarize government agencies and NGOs with the provisions of international law. Defense for Children International, with the support of Radda Barnen, organized a workshop to develop a coordinated network of information systems on children's rights. The International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Social Service and the Christian Children's Fund worked to support legislative action in Eastern and Central Europe in favour of the Convention.

63. Through technical assistance, baseline surveys, distribution of vitamin A capsules to NGOs and ministries of health, Helen Keller International has played a key role in efforts to eliminate vitamin A deficiency. Kiwanis International has recently committed itself to a major fund-raising effort in support of the virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by the year 2000, while Junior Chamber International is raising funds for a programme to install 1,000 new wells and provide health education to the communities it serves.

64. The World Alliance of Breastfeeding Action, a coalition of NGOs, has actively supported breast-feeding and the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. Its members, such as La Leche League International and the International Breastfeeding Action Network, have trained health professionals in lactation management, advocated the adoption of the International Code of Marketing on Breastmilk Substitutes at national level, organized mother support groups for breast-feeding, and raised public awareness on the benefits of breast-feeding, especially through the World Breast-feeding Week. NGOs, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, have often played a leading role in mobilizing government action and public support for breast-feeding.

65. In support of the education goals, the Education for All Network is building coalitions through a series of regional meetings. To highlight the current disparities in education between boys and girls, the NGO Committee on UNICEF organized a conference with NGOs, selected governmental officials, and United Nations agencies. The participants issued a call to action for all NGOs to promote the education of the girl child worldwide. The International Federation of University Women has adopted a three-year action programme (1992-1995), of which one of the goals is to increase access of women and girls to formal education systems, and to make these systems more responsive to their needs. Rotary International is supporting literacy programmes in addition to their continued efforts to eradicate polio.

66. Concerned about the deteriorating economic and social situation in Africa and the special difficulty that the African countries will have in meeting the Summit goals, national and international NGOs participated actively in the International Conference on Assistance to African Children and expressed interest in working with Governments in developing and implementing national programmes of action.

IX. ANALYSIS OF THE CONTENTS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

67. There is a broad diversity among NPAs, reflecting the heterogeneity of national policies and conditions. Some are broad perspective plans which establish goals and strategies while leaving concrete programmes and projects to shorter-term action plans or to actions at subnational level, or both. Others are lengthy and detailed to the project level and include cost estimates. Many clearly will be subject to revision or further elaboration as the decade progresses. Some are closely linked to the human development strategy framework, while others focus on children's rights. Some focus on poverty reduction while others stress children and the environment. Others, particularly in Africa, feature needs for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the wake of emergencies.

A. Goals

68. In preparing their NPAs, countries did not simply endorse the goals contained in the plan of action. The national goals identified in NPAs vary considerably from the global targets in a number of countries. In higher income developing countries such as Argentina, Thailand and Tunisia, the goals are often more ambitious. In least developed countries such as Mali, the Niger and

Rwanda, the goals are understandably less ambitious. On average, these adaptations are roughly similar to the global goals, although one trend thus far is towards something less than 100 per cent coverage of clean water supply and sanitation, especially the latter, by the year 2000. Some, primarily African, countries have broadened the list of supporting goals to include as part of reducing infant and child mortality, the reduction of mortality and morbidity due to specific causes such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome and malaria. The global goals continue to serve as an incentive for countries that could reasonably aim higher to do so, and as a tool for stimulating healthy "competition" among States.

69. Many NPAs have established intermediate targets to be achieved by mid-decade. In addition to these national mid-decade targets, a number of regional groupings have established targets for their regions.

B. Strategies

70. Most NPAs discuss both overall strategies and strategies for individual sectors. Recurrent themes in both instances include community participation, decentralization, disparity reduction, capacity-building, empowerment of households, especially women, and involvement of NGOs. In addition to sectoral strategies for health, nutrition, education, water supply and sanitation and children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC), separate strategies for women in development are included in the NPAs of countries such as Bangladesh, Chile, the Congo and the Comoros; on the environment in Madagascar, Guinea-Bissau and Zimbabwe; on social mobilization and public information in Chile, Honduras and Senegal; and on family planning in Nepal. Canada, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands stress family support measures to further children's rights. A specific agenda for research on problems affecting children is a feature of the NPAs of the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Viet Nam and the United States.

C. Resource requirements

71. While not all NPAs have attempted to estimate the costs of achieving their goals and objectives, many have done or plan to do so at a later stage. As of June 1993, 60 NPAs contained estimates of their total cost. As might be expected, not all countries use exactly the same methods for estimating costs. For the most part, the estimates given are for costs that are additional to current levels of expenditure, but that is not clear in all cases. While these caveats must be kept in mind, some observations concerning orders of magnitude are still valid.

72. One of the motives for many developing countries to estimate the costs of reaching their goals is the hope of attracting additional external resources. Under such circumstances, it might be expected that such estimates would be on the generous side, but when analysed in terms of total costs as a percentage of gross national product (GNP), the cost estimates of NPAs appear quite reasonable. The UNDP Human Development Report 1991 analysed human expenditure for 25 countries, covering 74 per cent of the developing world, and found their human expenditure ratio to be slightly less than 3 per cent of GNP. That report

argues that the human expenditure ratio may need to be around 5 per cent if a country wishes to do well in human development. Thus, an additional 2 per cent of GNP is a reasonable amount to expect countries to devote to basic education, PHC, water supply, sanitation, nutrition and family planning. The average annual cost of the 58 NPAs analysed is 2 per cent of their weighted average GNP.

73. The largest proportion of estimated costs in NPAs are for education (39 per cent), followed by health (23 per cent) and water supply and sanitation (17 per cent). Because nutrition is included in the health sector of many NPAs, separate nutrition programmes account for only 3 per cent of total costing, while the CEDC category receives 7 per cent. The remaining 11 per cent is for costs of programmes which do not fit into any of the previous sectors.

D. Resource mobilization

74. Once total costs have been estimated, many NPAs calculate existing available resources and, by comparing these with the total needed, identify the "resource gap". Ways of filling the gap can then be considered. Budget reallocations to increase the proportion devoted to the social sectors is the most important of these ways. Bhutan's NPA projects increases from 8.3 to 11.2 per cent of the budget for education and from 4.3 to 6.7 per cent for health during the period 1991-1997. Chile has earmarked $700 million, in addition to its current annual social sector budget of $6 billion, for financing its NPA during the period 1993-2000. Senegal plans to increase the share of its budget for health sectors from the current 4.8 per cent to 9 per cent by the year 2000. Egypt's NPA is assigned 7.5 per cent of the budget in the 1992-1997 development plan. Reductions in expenditure on armaments are specifically mentioned in the NPAs of Namibia and Zimbabwe. Mexico's second evaluation report on the implementation of its NPA up to the end of 1992 shows a steady increase in the proportion of federal public expenditure devoted to the social sector in the NPA's first two years. These increases were distributed fairly evenly among the social sectors and continue an upward trend initiated in 1989 after a steep decline during the 1980s. Growth in expenditures in favour of children (comprising the areas of health and nutrition, education, basic sanitation and children in especially difficult circumstances) has far outstripped growth in GNP and social sector expenditure.

75. Some NPAs discuss ways to increase domestic revenues such as increasing the tax base (Kenya), social taxes on luxury imports (Nepal), a special levy on tourists (Maldives), tax benefits to private enterprise in exchange for support to public schools (Uruguay), a national lottery (Barbados) and proceeds from privatization (Pakistan and Venezuela). A number of countries that underwent structural adjustment in the 1980s, especially in Latin America, created special social investment funds as a means for providing safety nets for the most vulnerable. Such funds are identified as resources for partial financing of NPAs in Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico and Uruguay.

76. The resource gap is frequently calculated after including current levels of external aid as "existing". This means that the portion of the resource gap that is to be financed externally represents an increase over current aid levels. This does not necessarily mean that large increases in total ODA are expected. While absolute increases in ODA are needed, a restructuring of the

proportion of ODA devoted to priority needs of children and women is another important way of filling the gap.

77. Despite these encouraging examples, however, a note of caution should be sounded on two points. The first is that quite a number of NPAs remain vague about the resource gap and how it will be financed. The second is that even those references in NPAs to restructuring and financing mechanisms run the risk of not being implemented if they are not reflected in the annual or biennial budgetary process. This is an aspect of NPAs that will require a good deal of attention in the years immediately ahead. While representatives of finance and planning ministries have participated in NPA preparation in many countries, these may not always have been the persons who make the crucial budgetary decisions which assure that the allocations proposed are actually made. Something close to the "20/20" formula discussed in paragraph 30 will be required, and will need to be made operational in the national budgetary process if the accelerated progress required for the decade's goals is to be achieved.

E. Monitoring

78. The identification and establishment of mechanisms for monitoring progress towards national goals for the decade is one of the weaker aspects of many NPAs. Some 87 NPAs contain a section on this topic and some are quite strong, especially Botswana, Cuba, Guinea and Mexico. Most frequently, a national committee, either one set up to oversee overall implementation of the NPA or one created specifically for monitoring, is given responsibility for reviewing progress on a periodic basis. In other cases, the national statistical office, the planning ministry or its equivalent, or an existing sectoral or social welfare ministry has that responsibility. A notable set of NPAs, including those of Bangladesh, Belize, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Swaziland, contain a systematic review of the indicators needed to measure progress towards each of the goals, provide the baseline data for each indicator where available and identify the instruments that will be used to measure progress and to fill the data gaps. Others focus only on the areas where information gaps are most severe; children in especially difficult circumstances is the category most frequently mentioned, followed by maternal mortality and literacy. The majority of NPAs, however, are less specific concerning precisely how the country will measure progress towards each of the goals, although quite a few indicate that this is an aspect that will be developed further in the near future.

F. Implementation

79. One of the most important keys to effective implementation of NPAs is the translation of national plans into effective programmes of action at provincial and local levels. Venezuela's NPA has been accompanied by plans of action in eight states and one municipality, with more subnational plans expected. The governors of 24 Brazilian states presented their state plans of action and signed a commitment for 500 days of action for children in the presence of the President, six ministers, the Attorney General and the president of the council of bishops and the national media. Some 50 NGOs declared their support for non-partisan cooperation in these days of action. Twenty-three provinces in

Viet Nam had prepared provincial programmes of action by March 1993, while the 30 remaining provinces intend to have done the same by the end of the year. State plans of action are being prepared by a number of states in Mexico. In Colombia, immediately after the promulgation of the national programme, training workshops were begun on methodologies for departmental and municipal implementation. In the Republic of Korea, seminars were organized by the central Government to generate proposals for programmes to be implemented by local governments and NGOs. The NPA of Bangladesh declares that the focus for 1993 will be on developing district-level programmes of action. NPAs of other countries, such as China, Ecuador, Nigeria, and the Philippines, also refer to implementation at subnational levels.

X. THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

80. Despite the excellent progress made since the World Summit for Children, serious challenges remain. The overarching challenge is to begin to make real progress towards reaching the decade's goals. Implicit in that challenge are several factors which are absolutely critical to that achievement. Among these are the following:

(a) The need for greater integration of NPA goals and strategies and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all aspects of national development, including the budgetary processes through which plans and programmes are translated into resource commitments;

(b) The mobilization of adequate resources for implementation of NPAs and the Convention, both internally through systematic review and appropriate reallocation of national budgets, and externally through a higher proportion of ODA for priority human development concerns. So far, the internal mobilization of resources is well ahead of the additional external mobilization, with the latter very much at test in 1993 and 1994;

(c) The reinforcement of systems for monitoring progress towards the goals, with capacity for wide public review of progress and shortfalls;

(d) Sustaining the momentum for "keeping the promise" of the Summit and the Convention internationally and nationally through advocacy and social mobilization.

81. At a deeper level, there is need for increased recognition that the achievement of the decade's goals for children would contribute to and help catalyse the realization of so many other goals to which the human community aspires, such as slowing population growth rates, accelerating economic growth, improving the environment and overcoming many of the worst manifestations of poverty.

82. The Secretary-General was requested by the World Summit for Children to arrange for a mid-decade review, at all appropriate levels, of the progress being made towards implementing the commitments of the Declaration and Plan of Action. Such a review will have to present not just plans and programmes, but also the first results of the Summit's pledges in terms of a better life for children. Expectations now centre around the set of mid-decade targets

identified by various regional gatherings of heads of State and other high government officials and by the executive bodies of WHO and UNICEF. The World Summit on Social Development, being held in 1995, will be taking place at the time when the mid-decade goals will be under review, and will be examining issues closely related to the goals of the World Summit for Children.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II, para. 25.13.

2/ See Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990.

ANNEX I

STATUS OF SIGNATURES ON THE DECLARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AS OF 15 JULY 1993

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SIGNED THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN DECLARATION (149)				*NOT SIGNED (42)*
Afghanistan	*Gabon*	Nambia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Angola
Albania	Gambia	Nepal	Uruguay	Armenia
Algeria	Germany	*Netherlands*	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Azerbaijan
Antigua and Barbuda	Ghana	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Bahamas
Argentina	Greece	Nicaragua	Venezuela	Bahrain
Australia	Grenada	Niger	Viet Nam	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Austria	Guatemala	Nigeria	Yemen	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Bangladesh	Guinea	Norway	Yugoslavia	Croatia
Barbados	Guinea Bissua	Pakistan	Zaire	Cyprus
Belarus	Guyana	Panama	Zambia	Czech Republic
Belgium	*Haiti*	Papua New Guinea	Zimbabwe	ERITREA
Belize	Holy See	Paraguay		Estonia
Benin	Honduras	Peru		Ethiopia
Bhutan	Hungary	Philippines		*Fiji*
Bolivia	Iceland	Poland		GEORGIA
BOTSWANA	India	Portugal		IRAQ
Brazil	Indonesia	*Qatar*		KYHGYZSTAN
Bulgaria	*Iran, Islamic Republic of*	Republic of Korea		KIRIBATI
Burkina Faso	Ireland	Romania		Latvia
Burundi	Israel	Russian Federation		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Cameroon	Italy	Rwanda		Lithuania
Cambodia	Jamaica	Sao Tome and Principe		Malta
Canada	*Japan*	St. Kitts and Nevis		Micronesia
Cape Verde	Jordan	St. Lucia		Moldovia (Rep. of)
Central African Republic	KAZAKHSTAN	ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES		Myanmar
Chad	Kenya	*Samoa*		NAURU
Chile	Kuwait	Senegal		OMAN
China	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sierra Leone		San Marino
Colombia	Lebanon	SOLOMON ISLANDS		SAUDI ARABIA
Comoros	Lesotho	Spain		Seychelles
CONGO	Liberia	Sri Lanka		Slovenia
Costa Rica	*Liechtenstein*	Sudan		Slovak Republic
Cote D'Ivoire	*Luxemburg*	Suriname		SINGAPORE
Cuba	Madagascar	*Swaziland*		SOMALIA
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Malawi	Sweden		*South Africa*
Denmark	MALAYSIA	*Switzerland*		TAJIKISTAN
Djibouti	Maldives	*Syrian Arab Republic*		TONGA
Dominica	Mali	Tanzania		TURKMENISTAN
Dominican Republic	*Marshall Islands*	Thailand		TUVALU
Ecuador	Mauritania	Togo		THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA
Egypt	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago		UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
El Salvador	Mexico	Tunisa		UZBEKISTAN
Equitorial Guinea	Monaco	*Turkey*		
Finland	Mongolia	Uganda		
France	Morocco	Ukraine		
	Mozambique			

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NEITHER SIGNED NOR RATIFIED THE CONVENTION: (26)
Countries that have signed but not yet ratified: (19)
Countries that have ratified the Convention: (144)

ANNEX II

STATUS OF WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION
AS OF 15 JULY 1993

ASIA * 3 ** 9 *** 15	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA * 4 ** 10 *** 27	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN * 7 ** 3 *** 21	MIDDLE-EAST AND NORTH AFRICA * 5 ** 5 *** 10	INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES * 7 ** 2 *** 13
Afghanistan	* Angola	* Antigua and Barbuda	*** Algeria	* Albania
*** Bangladesh	*** Benin	*** Argentina	*** Bahrain	** Australia
*** Bhutan	** Botswana	Bahamas	Cyprus	Austria
Brunei Darussalam	*** Burkina Faso	*** Barbados	*** Djibouti	*** Belgium
Cambodia	*** Burundi	*** Belize	*** Egypt	Bosnia and Herzegovina
*** China	** Cameroon	*** Bolivia	*** Iran, Islamic Republic of	* Bulgaria
** Democratic People's Republic of Korea	** Cape Verde	** Brazil	* Iraq	*** Canada
	*** Central African Rep.	*** Chile	** Jordan	Croatia
*** Fiji	*** Chad	*** Colombia	*** Kuwait	Czech Republic
*** India	*** Comoros	*** Costa Rica	* Lebanon	*** Denmark
*** Indonesia	*** Congo	*** Cuba	** Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	*** Finland
* Kiribati	*** Cote D'Ivoire.	* Dominica	*** Morocco	* France
** Lao Peaple's Democratic Republic	Eritrea	*** Dominican Republic	** Oman	*** Germany
	** Equatorial Guinea	*** Ecuador	* Qatar	Greece
** Malaysia	** Ethiopia	*** El Salvador	* Saudi Arabia	*** Holy See
*** Maldives	Gabon	* Grenada	*** Sudan	* Hungary
*** Marshall Islands	*** Gambia	*** Guatemala	*** Syrian Arab Republic	Iceland
** Micronesia	*** Ghana	* Guyana	*** Tunisia	Ireland
** Mongolia	*** Guinea	Haiti	** Turkey	Israel
** Myanmar	** Guinea-Bissau	*** Honduras	* United Arab Emirates	* Italy
Nauru	*** Kenya	** Jamaica	** Yemen	*** Japan
*** Nepal	* Lesotho	*** Mexico		Luxembourg
*** Pakistan	** Liberia	*** Nicaragua		Liechtenstein
* Papua New Guinea	** Madagascar	*** Panama		Malta
*** Philippines	*** Malawi	*** Paraguay		Monaco
*** Republic of Korea	*** Mali	*** Peru		*** Netherlands
Samoa	*** Mauritania	* St. Kitts and Nevis		* New Zealand
*** Singapore	*** Mauritius	** St.Lucia		*** Norway
* Solomon Islands	*** Mozambique	* St. Vincent and The Grenadines		Poland
*** Sri Lanka	*** Niger			*** Portugal
** Thailand •	*** Nigeria	* Suriname		* Romania
Tonga	*** Namibia	*** Trinidad and Tobago		San Marino
** Tuvalu	*** Rwanda			Slovak Republic
** Vanuatu	* Sao Tome and Principe	*** Uruguay		Slovenia
*** Viet Nam		*** Venezuela		** Spain
	*** Senegal			*** Sweden
	* Seychelles			Switzerland
	*** Sierra Leone			*** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Somalia			
	South Africa			*** United States of America
	*** Swaziland			Yugoslavia
	** Togo			
	*** Uganda			
	*** United Republic of Tanzania			
	Zaire			
	** Zambia			
	*** Zimbabwe			

FORMER SOVIET UNION *1 **0 ***0
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Estonia
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Moldova
* Russian Federation
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

* Preparation under way : (27)
** Draft/outline received : (29)
*** National programmes of action finalized : (86)
National programmes of action finalized, in draft form and preparation: (143)